

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05  
DHA-02 MCT-01 /064 W

----- 084786 /70

P R 212045Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 137  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 3347

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, TD, XL  
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD MEDIA GIVE CONTINUED PROMINENCE  
TO ALLEGATIONS OF CIA ACTIVITY

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 3316

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1. A BRIEF AIRPORT INTERVIEW WITH VISITING CALIFORNIA  
LT. GOVERNOR MERVYN DYMALLY DECEMBER 19 RESULTED IN A  
FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE IN THE FOLLOWING DAY'S "TRINIDAD  
GUARDIAN": DYMALLY RAPS CIA IN CARIBBEAN". DYMALLY  
REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE CIA SHOULD NOT INTERFERE  
IN THE AFFAIRS OF CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT - "CERTAINLY  
NOT IN RESPECT OF DESTABILIZING THEIR ECONOMIES" - AND  
SAID ANY CIA AGENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN SHOULD LEAVE  
VOLUNTARILY OR BE RECALLED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

2. DURING A PRIME-TIME TELEVISION INTERVIEW BROADCAST  
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DECEMBER 20 DYMALLY CLARIFIED HIS OWN POSITION AND  
ATTEMPTED TO DISPEL MYTHS ABOUT "DESTABILIZATION".  
DYMALLY STRESSED HIS NON-OFFICIAL STATUS AND SAID THAT  
HIS COMMENTS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT BY THE  
NEWSPAPER REPORTER. HE REPEATED HIS PREVIOUS STATMENT  
(OMITTED IN THE "GUARDIAN" STORY) THAT HE HAD NO

EVIDENCE THAT THE CIA WAS INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE CARIBBEAN. HE STATED THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DID NOT WISH TO DESTABILIZE ANY COUNTRY IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. DYMALLY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WHILE IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION THE U.S. WAS STILL EXCESSIVELY PARANOID ABOUT CUBA, THE WEST INDIES WERE SIMILARLY EXCESSIVELY PARANOID ABOUT THE CIA. ALL CONCERNED WOULD BE WELL ADVISED, HE SAID, TO PUT THESE PREOCCUPATIONS ASIDE AND DEAL WITH THE REAL ISSUES.

3. THIS MEDIA-CREATED FLAP FOLLOWED ON ALLEGATIONS MADE LAST WEEK BY OPPOSITION M.P. DR. WINSTON MURRAY THAT SOME 50 TRINIDADIAN POLICEMEN WERE IN THE PAY OF THE CIA (REFTEL). THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR RESPONDED TO THE MURRAY CHARGES NLY WITH A WEAK STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOHN DONALDSON THAT "IT IS INDEED A SERIOUS ALLEGATION, BUT I AM AFRAID I CANNOT SAY ANY MORE AT THIS STAGE- NO MORE". DR. MURRAY HIMSELF ADDED TO HIS CHARGES THE OFT-MADE ALLEGATION THAT SEVERAL LOCAL TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO ATTENDED COURSES AND CONFERENCES IN THE U.S. (READ AIFLD) WERE ON THE PAYROLL OF THE CIA.

4. THE "GUARDIAN" CRITICIZED DR. MURRAY IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL ON DECEMBER 19 FOR MAKING "AN UNSUPPORTED STATEMENT" AND "MALIGNING A HIGH-RANKING POLICE OFFICER". LESS HELPFULLY, THE "GUARDIAN" ALSO CARRIED AN ANONYMOUS COLUMN ENTITLED "HOW DR. MURRAY SPOTS A SPY". THE COLUMN

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GENERALLY LENT CREDENCE TO MURRAY'S CHARGES WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO TAKE DR. MURRAY LIGHTLY .... HE WAS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT A SPY SCHOOL -- THE U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL AT FORT HOLABIRD, MARYLAND .... DR. MURRAY WOULD HAVE WORKED THERE IN AN ATMOSPHERE THICK WITH SPY TEACHERS AND THEIR PUPILS BEING TAUGHT SPYING AND SHOULD HAVE PICKED UP THE CAPACITY TO SPOT A SPY WHEN ONE IS AROUND."

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5. COMMENT: LT. GOVERNOR DYMALLY WAS UNDERSTANDABLY MOST CONCERNED AT THE OUT-OF-CONTEXT HEADLINING OF HIS REMARKS BY THE LOCAL PRESS. REPORTER AT AIRPORT HAD ASKED LOADED QUESTIONS AND PROBABLY ALREADY HAD HEADLINE IN MIND BEFORE INTERVIEW BEGUN. DYMALLY DISCUSSED WITH

EMBASSY HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH SITUATION AND CONSCIOUSLY ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE MORNING HEADLINES IN THE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION INTERVIEW MONDAY EVENING. HIS COMMENTS WERE CONSTRUCTIVE AND STRESSED QUITE FIRMLY THAT HE HAD NO INDICATIONS OF ANY DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS AND THAT CIA WAS BEING BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING PEOPLE APPARENTLY DIDN'T LIKE, WHETHER THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE IN THAT REGARD OR NOT.

6. FOR GEORGETOWN: YOUR 2588 JUST RECEIVED. DYMALLY IS NOW IN REMOTE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TRINIDAD WITH FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE ACCESS TO HIM AGAIN UNTIL DECEMBER 29 UPON HIS RETURN FROM GUYANA, AND THEREFORE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO INFORM HIM OF GUYANESE REPLAY OF PRESS HERE. HE REALIZED THAT WAS INEVITABLE, HOWEVER, AND IS WELL SENSITIZED TO THE TRAP HE WAS LED INTO UPON ARRIVAL IN TRINIDAD. BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND DYMALLY A MOST CONSTRUCTIVE VISITOR. HE HAS MADE SEVERAL VISITS TO  
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TRINIDAD IN PAST FEW YEARS AND HAS WORKED HARD TO FURTHER CAUSE OF IMPROVED AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH WEST INDIES. ON ALL OCCASIONS HE HAS BEEN MOST RECEPTIVE TO DIALOGUE WITH EMBASSY AND SUPPORTIVE OF USG POLICIES.  
FAY

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## Message Attributes

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